

David Moran

From: Leta Mach
Sent: Thursday, March 22, 2012 1:11 PM
To: David Moran
Cc: Michael McLaughlin
Subject: FW: Health, Education and Labor Funding Letter

Attachments: March 16 letter on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education 302 (b) allocation.doc;
March 16 letter on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education 302 (b) allocation.docx



March 16 letter on Labor, Heal...
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David,

discussed this last night also and we would like it on the agenda Monday.

Leta

-----Original Message-----

From: Neil Bomberg [mailto:bomberg@nlc.org]
Sent: Wed 3/21/2012 12:07 PM
To: Leta Mach
Subject: Health, Education and Labor Funding Letter

Dear Human Development Committee Member . . .

As you will recall, the HD Committee agreed at its March 11 meeting to focus on advocacy. There is currently an urgent need for us to weigh in on the overall allocation that the House and Senate Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations will receive. The overall allocation will determine how much funding the Appropriations Committees can appropriate for workforce, education, health and human services programs. Without a sufficient allocation, the programs of importance to the HD Committee are likely to face further cuts. Therefore, I am asking as your first advocacy act, you reach out to the chairs and ranking members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees with the attached letter. Only five easy steps are required to send the attached letter:

1. Add the name of your city or town to the first line of the first paragraph;
2. Insert your name and title and address at the bottom of the letter;

Print the letter on your City's letterhead.

4. Sign the letter; and
5. Fax the letter to each of the fax numbers provided below each recipients address.

It is important that you email or fax a copy of the letter to Neil Bomberg at NLC. His email address is bomberg@nlc.org and his fax is 202.626.3043. Also, if you have any questions feel free to call Neil at 202.626.3042.

One final note. I have attached two different versions of the letter. The first is a .docx file which is in the most recent version of Microsoft Word. The second is a .doc file which is the older version of Word. If you cannot open the .docx version please try to open the .doc version. If you cannot open either version email Neil and he will provide you with a text version of the letter.

Thank you,

*Vani Tortoloso, Human Dev. Comm. Chair*₁

March 16, 2012

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510
Fax: 202.224.6747

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510
202.224.9450

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
202.225.9476

The Honorable Norm Dicks
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
202.225.9476

Dear Senators Inouye and Cochran and Representatives Rogers and Dicks:

On behalf of the City of _____ and the National League of Cities, I am writing to urge you to provide the largest possible FY 2013 302(b) allocation to the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee within the discretionary cap established by the Budget Control Act (BCA). Rebuilding our investment in labor, health and human service programs will boost the economy and reduce the deficit by preventing costly chronic diseases, increasing earnings, and reducing expenditures for unemployment and other social service programs.

The programs and services administered by these Departments serve a broad range of constituencies and needs, but they all share a common, fundamental goal of strengthening this nation by improving the lives of all Americans. Unfortunately, many of these programs were deeply cut in fiscal year (FY) 2011. Beginning in FY 2012, the BCA cuts \$900 billion in discretionary spending over 10 years. Discretionary spending will be cut by an additional \$1.2 trillion beginning in 2013 if Congress does not soon adopt a meaningful deficit reduction plan that addresses the true drivers of the debt.

With the rapid erosion of these critical federal functions, America stands to fall even farther behind our industrialized counterparts. Currently:

- The United States ranks 30th in infant mortality – widely recognized as a basic indicator of a country's overall health – behind even some developing countries.
- Scores from the 2009 Program for International Student Assessment show that our nation's 15 year olds rank 20th in science and 30th in math.
- The United States faces large and unacceptable gaps by race and socioeconomic status in student achievement, high school graduation, and college attendance and completion rates.
- Despite an 8.3 percent unemployment rate, our nation's businesses are struggling to find the skilled workers they need to sustain economic recovery. As a recent Manpower survey found, 52 percent of U.S. employers are experiencing difficulty filling critical positions within their organizations — up from only 14 percent in 2010.

I believe it is shortsighted to further cut discretionary funding in the interest of deficit reduction. We urge you to recognize the value of health, education, job training, and social services in improving the lives of American families and strengthening our global position. These discretionary programs should be protected from further cuts that will have profound consequences on our nation's global competitiveness and our capacity to address the needs of the most vulnerable.

We also urge you to work with your colleagues to prevent the harmful cuts that will occur to these programs under sequestration. While Pell grants are exempt from sequestration in FY 2013, all other discretionary health, education, and workforce investment programs will be slashed by as much as 9.1 percent on January 2, 2013. Education Department programs would be slashed by \$4.1 billion, Head Start by \$725 million, discretionary health programs within the committee's jurisdiction by \$5.7 billion, and workforce programs by \$715 million.

Cuts of this magnitude will move us backward and will prevent us from growing the economy, increasing jobs, improving global competitiveness, protecting the health of Americans and increasing educational attainment.

If you have questions about this letter, please contact Neil Bomberg, Program Director, National League of Cities at 202.626.3042 or bomberg@nlc.org.

Sincerely yours,

Name
Title
Address